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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

**WELLS**

Atty. Ref.: **36-1423**

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/GB99/03826**

International Filing Date: **17 November 1999**

Filed: **April 27, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

\* \* \* \* \*

**April 27, 2001**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

A1  
3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which one or more of the gateways communicate a respective delay time to a control node and the step of selecting one of the gateways is carried out by the control node.

A2  
5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which the packets are Internet Protocol (IP) packets.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which the circuit- switched network is an ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) network.